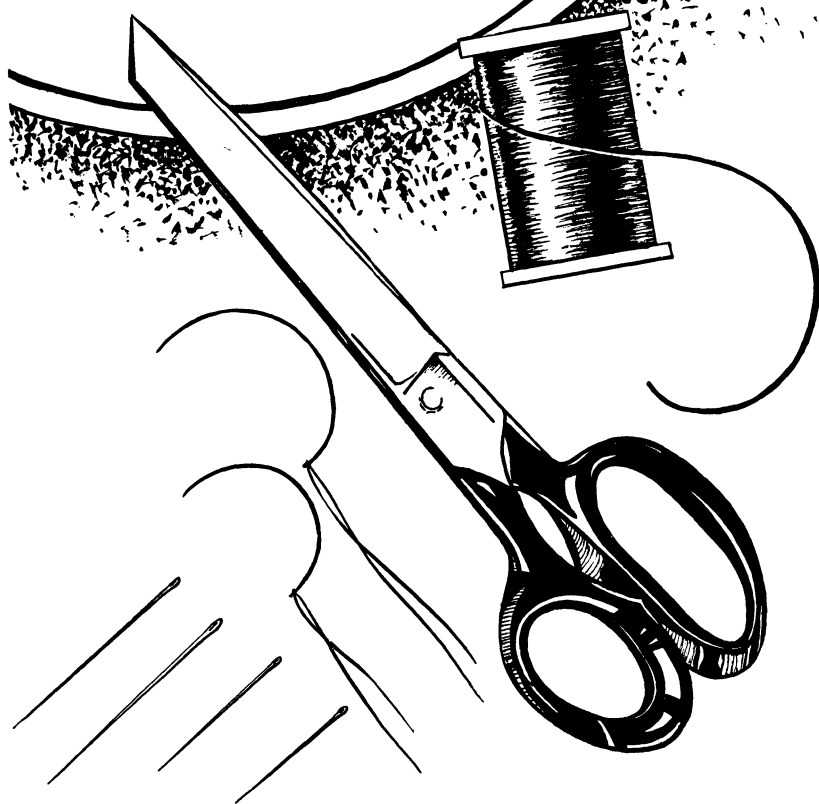


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CARPET and RUG REPAIR



FARMERS' BULLETIN No. 1960
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CARPET AND RUG REPAIR

by

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Carpets and rugs take a large slice of the family budget when they have to be replaced. Wise homemakers will make theirs last by caring for them and mending them at the first signs of wear.

Repairs for carpets and rugs are shown on the following pages. Some are tedious and a little hard to do, but in the end they're worth the effort. A mend, well done, can give new life to a valued possession.

EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

For rug and carpet repairs you need sturdy equipment. Most of the necessary tools you probably have on hand, but you may need to buy some special mending materials. For the best wear and the most professional-looking results, get the same kind of binding, thread, and yarn that the commercial repairman uses. Then with care and patience you can do a good job of restoring your rug.

This equipment you're certain to need:

Cutting tools.—Strong, sharp shears, a sharp knife, or a single-edged razor blade for cutting down carpets or rugs or for trimming off frayed edges—lighter weight scissors for snipping yarns or threads, or for shearing off new tufts.

Needles.—Strong darning needles about 2½ to 3 inches long—or coarse embroidery needles, sizes 3–5—or large-eyed sewing needles. Fine needles break readily when used for rug and carpet repairs. For replacing tufts in bare spots in a rug, a curved upholstery needle is convenient to use. (See p. 10.)

Thread.—Linen carpet thread is best to use because it's stronger than ordinary thread. As a rule you can buy it in different colors, by the spool or skein, at rug or upholstery shops or in the art or notion departments of the larger stores. Choose a color that matches the carpet if the stitches will show on the right side, but if most of the stitches will be on the back of a rug a neutral tan is a good color to use.

If linen thread is hard to get or the repair is small, use regular coarse cotton thread or heavy-duty mercerized thread.

Thimble.—To push a heavy needle through thick carpeting and to protect your finger, a thimble is a “must.”

In addition, you may need some of these materials and tools, depending on the kind of rug repair:

Binding.—Twilled carpet binding about 1¼ inches wide, in a color to match the rug or carpet, is best for binding raw edges. You can buy it at department stores, rug shops, or mail-order houses. The kind of twilled tape used for many sewing purposes is too light in weight for binding carpet.

Fringe.—Most rug fringe is cotton, but you may also find wool or linen fringe at some stores. You can buy fringe by the yard from rug supply shops, mail-order houses, or upholstery sections of department stores. Cotton fringe is least expensive, wears satisfactorily, and is suitable for any rug except a fine oriental.

Fringe comes with either a single band which is sewed on top of the rug or with a double band. The double-band fringe also serves as a binding. Which you buy is likely to depend on what is available in your locality. To decide the amount of fringe you need, measure both ends of the rug and allow an extra 2 inches for each yard of rug to be finished.

Yarn.—For filling in bare spots with new loops or tufts, carpet yarn is the best because it's firm, has springiness, and can stand hard wear. You can likely get a few yards or a small skein in the colors you need from a rug or carpet shop or by sending to the manufacturer of your rug. You'll find his name as well as the pattern number, rug quality, and color stamped on the back of the rug. If you write to your manufacturer, send this information. Also, pull a few tufts of each color you need, from scattered places in the selvage, to send along as samples.

If you are unable to get carpet yarn, use harsh wool knitting yarn, matching the colors in your rug as nearly as you can.

Facings, linings, and patches.—Regular carpet binding makes a serviceable facing for worn edges of hooked rugs. For linings and patches, any sturdy material on hand, even if it has to be pieced, will do—good parts of worn coats, torn grain sacks, good parts of an old awning, or left-over pieces of new burlap or canvas.

Crochet hook.—A strong crochet hook, either steel or plastic, is needed to replace missing tufts or to fix pulled loops in a hooked rug. Use a larger size for tufts of coarse yarn or strips of cloth and a smaller size for medium or fine yarns.

GET RUG READY

Before beginning repairs, clean the rug well. Sweep with vacuum cleaner or broom, first on the right side and then on the wrong. If the rug is washable, tub it gently so that washing won't make the damaged spot any larger. Don't beat or shake rugs or carpets, especially those that are to be mended—beating and shaking whip out ripped hems and frayed ends still more.

For your own convenience and comfort:

Plan to repair the rug when you have a free day, with the family out of the way. A bright day is best. It is easier on the eyes.

Wear a mask over nose and mouth if you are sensitive to dust or lint.

If the rug or carpet is too large to lift to a table, sit on a low stool or box with a cushion, with your back against the wall to relieve strain, and work with the rug on your lap. Slip a second small box under a heavy rug to raise it from the floor and to make it easier to get at the damaged place.

PILE RUGS AND CARPETS

Frayed Ends

To mend carpets and rugs that have frayed edges, whipped-out ends, worn hems, or worn-out fringe, put on a binding or finish the ends with fringe.

Whichever type of repair you choose, the first step is to trim off the worn or frayed parts. Start where the damage is deepest. Use large shears, a knife, or a single-edge razor blade, and cut from wrong side. Follow one of the crosswise or lengthwise yarns or ridges (fig. 1). Save all good scraps of carpet—you may need them for repairs. If the rug edge frays badly or you want to strengthen it and make it firmer for finishing, overcast the edge before you sew on binding or put on fringe (fig. 2).

To save time, you may omit the overcasting if you trim off only a little of the worn edge at a time and sew on the binding or fringe as you go. But whichever you do, handle the trimmed edge as little as possible.

Binding.—Lay the right side of the binding on the right side of carpet, the edge of the binding even with the trimmed edge of the carpet. Allow $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of binding to turn under at each end. For sewing on binding use a heavy darning needle and carpet thread. Fasten the thread at the rug selvage with a few short stitches, one on top of the other. From the wrong side of the carpet, stick the needle through to the right side on a slant so that it goes in about $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the raw edge and comes out through both the carpet

and binding about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge. Guide the binding along the edge of the carpet by holding it between thumb and first finger (fig. 3). Make the stitches about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch apart.

When the binding is sewed on, fasten the thread by making two or three stitches backward to form an "X" over the edge. On the last stitch throw the thread around the needle and draw it up tight to secure the binding so that it won't rip.

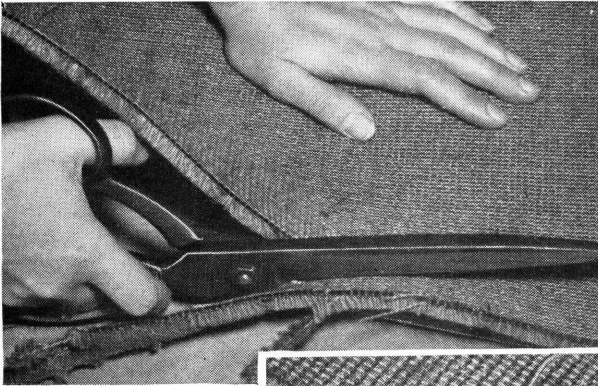


Figure 1.—Cut off frayed end of rug.

Figure 2.—Overcast the cut edge of rug.

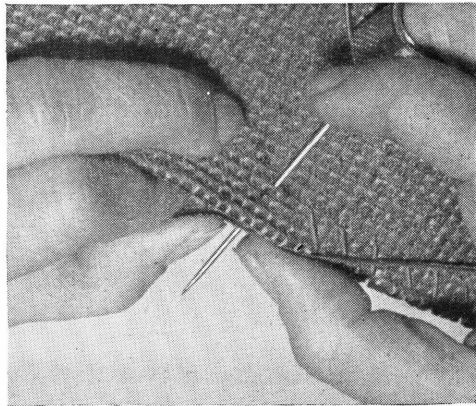
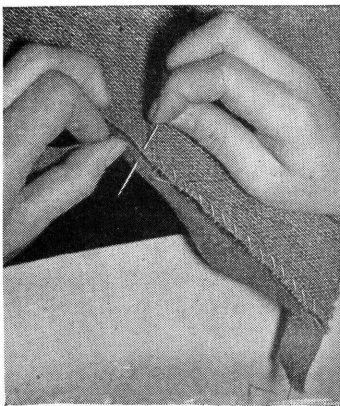
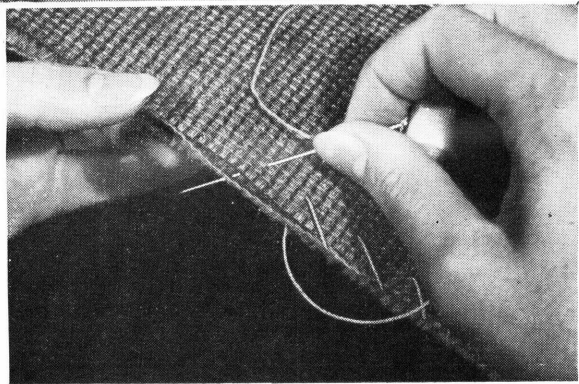


Figure 3.—Sew binding to the cut edge of rug. Close-up of stitch is shown at right.

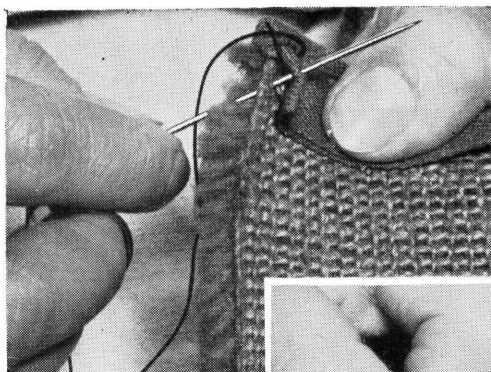


Figure 4.—Sew end of binding to carpet.

Figure 5.—Sew binding to back of carpet.

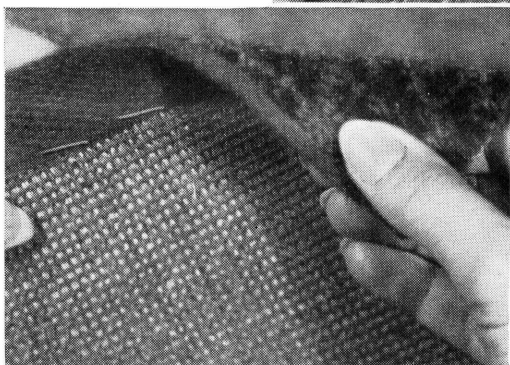
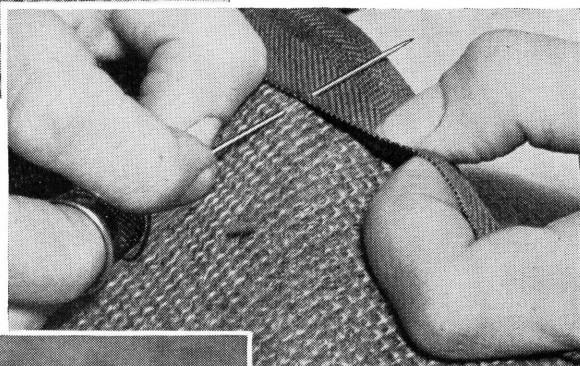


Figure 6.—Finished binding has a narrow edge on the right side of rug. On the wrong side, a wider band protects the carpet.

Fold the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of binding left at the end to the wrong side, on a diagonal, so the corner won't show when the binding is turned over the edge of the carpet. Then fold the binding over the raw edge of carpet to the under side. Draw binding down smoothly but be careful not to draw it so tightly that the binding slips up over the raw edge of carpet. Fasten the end of the binding securely with small stitches through the selvage of the carpet and the fold of the binding (fig. 4). Sew the loose edge of binding to carpet back, catching only a few yarns of the carpet and about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the binding (fig. 5). Make these stitches about 1 inch apart. On the right side only a narrow edge of binding will show—on the wrong side there will be an inch or more to protect the edge of the carpet (fig. 6).

Fringe.—To apply the kind of fringe that serves as binding, first turn in an inch of the fringe at one end and then slip the rug between the two finished edges of the fringe. Make sure the cut edge is pushed between the two bands at least $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Pin the top edge of the fringe band in place all the way across the cut end of the rug. (See fig. 7). To finish the end, turn in an inch of the fringe bands on the second end as you did on the first. Pin the underneath band in place.

Use a darning needle threaded with carpet thread to sew on the fringe. Take several stitches at one end, one on top of the other, to fasten the thread. Sew the fringe on with a stab stitch—that is, from the right side stick the needle in, catching the edge of the top band of the fringe (fig. 8). Push it straight through the rug and through the under fringe band—three thicknesses in all. Stick the needle back through the rug by putting it just outside the loop in the edge of the underneath fringe band. Bring it out on the right side, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from the first stitch.

Finish the ends by slip stitching the folded edges of fringe together.

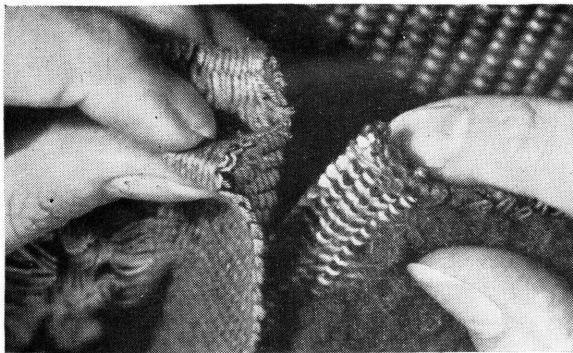
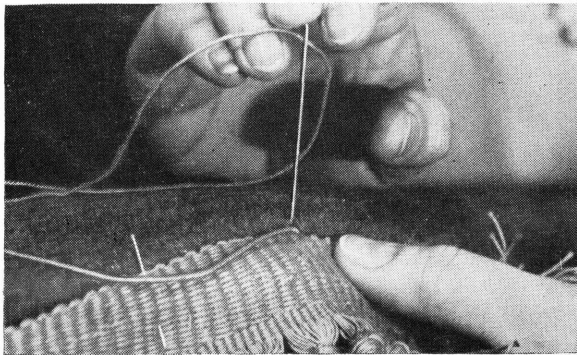


Figure 7.—Turn in the ends of double fringe, slip the rug edge between the two bands, and pin in place.

Figure 8.—To sew fringe to rug with stab stitch, push needle straight through rug, catching the edges of the two bands of fringe.



To apply single-band fringe, fold under an inch at one end, then pin the band to the right side of the carpet so that it overlaps the rug about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (figs. 9 and 10). Be sure to get the fringe on straight. Use as a guide either a crosswise row of pile or a crosswise yarn on the wrong side. With a coarse darning needle and carpet thread that matches the fringe, sew the fringe to the rug with a stab stitch. (See fig. 8.) Stick the needle back to the right side, as shown in figure 11.

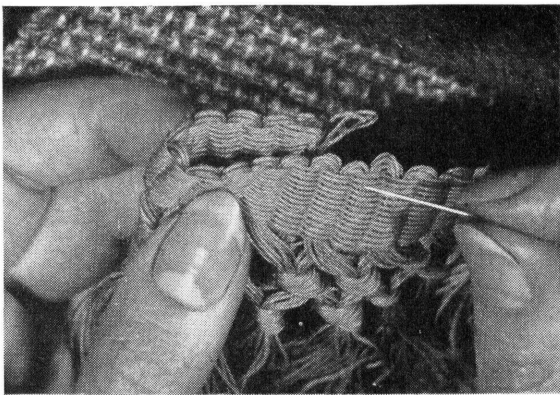


Figure 9.—Turn back the end of single-band fringe 1 inch and pin.

Figure 10.—Pin single-band fringe to right side of rug, overlapping edges $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

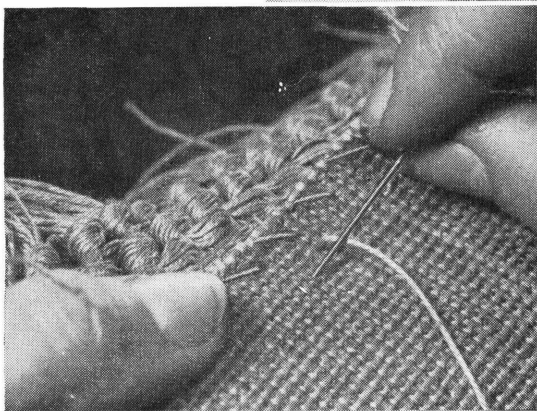
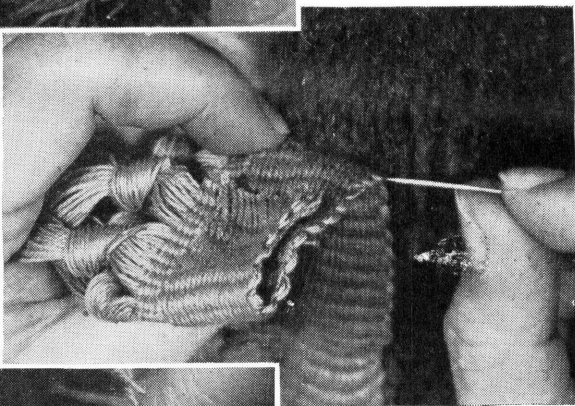


Figure 11.—To stick needle back from the wrong side in the stab stitch, follow a crosswise yarn so the needle comes through just outside the edge of fringe band on the right side of rug.

Worn Selvages

Trim badly worn selvages, overcast the raw edge, then finish with carpet binding that matches or tones in with the body of the rug.

Lay the binding on the rug, right sides together, so that the edge of the binding is about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge of the rug. Allow about $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch turn-back at each end. With a large darning needle and carpet thread, sew the binding to the rug with short stitches. Put in an occasional backstitch. Make this line of stitching about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch from the edge of the binding (fig. 12). Turn under the $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of binding at each end, folding it on a diagonal. Then fold the binding over the edge of the rug to the wrong side. Sew it to the back of the carpet, catching only about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the binding (fig. 13).

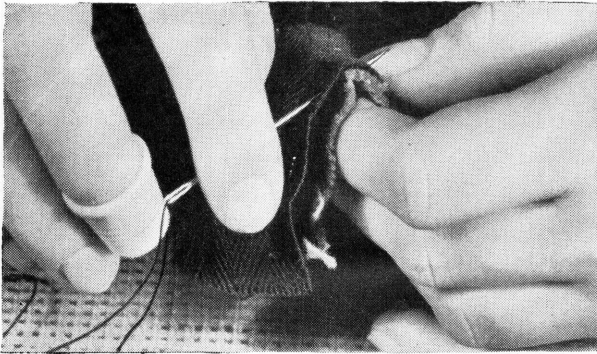
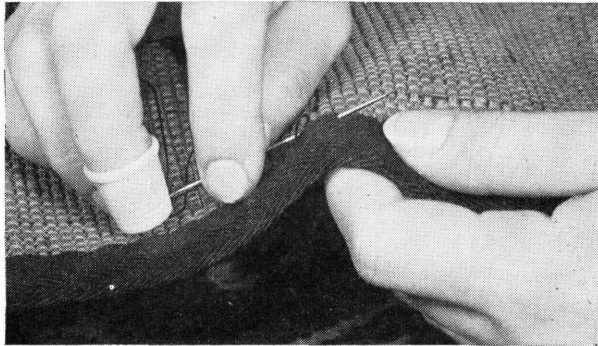


Figure 12.—Sew carpet binding to trimmed edge of rug.

Figure 13.—Sew binding to back of rug.



Bare Spots

Pulled-out tufts, burns, moths, and sprouting (loosened ends of yarn) cause bare spots. A process known as burling is used to repair these places. It may be done in one of two ways.

One way is to replace the damaged or missing tufts with tufts picked here and there from the selvage or taken from a matching piece of

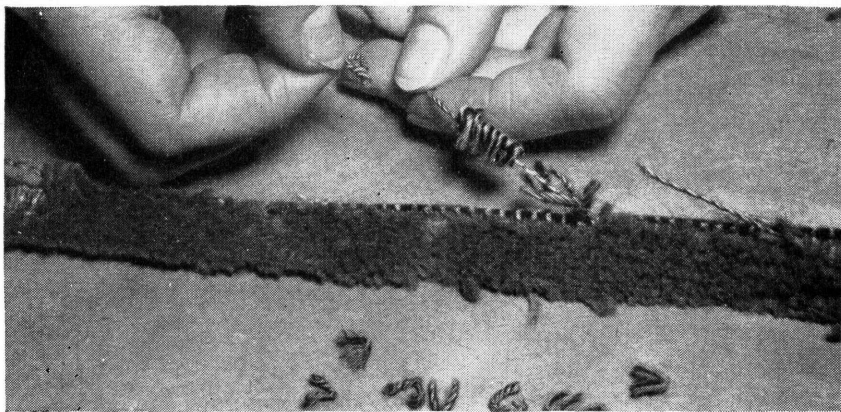


Figure 14.—Ravel tufts from a matching piece of carpet.

carpet (fig. 14). Use a small-sized, curved upholstery needle threaded with carpet thread and catch the needle under a yarn of the carpet foundation (fig. 15). Fasten the thread at the start by taking two or three short stitches, one on top of the other, in the foundation material. Make a loop in the thread by pulling the last stitch only part way through. Put three or four loose tufts into the loop of thread. Hold these tufts in place with the thumb and forefinger and pull the thread tight to anchor tufts in place (fig. 16). Continue until the bare spot is completely filled. Be sure to fill in enough tufts to make the pile as compact as the rest of the rug.

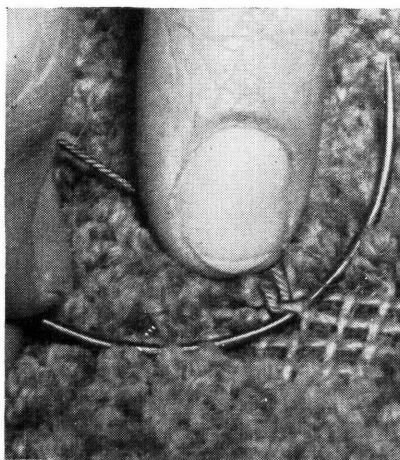


Figure 15.—Slip a curved upholstery needle under a yarn in the carpet foundation.

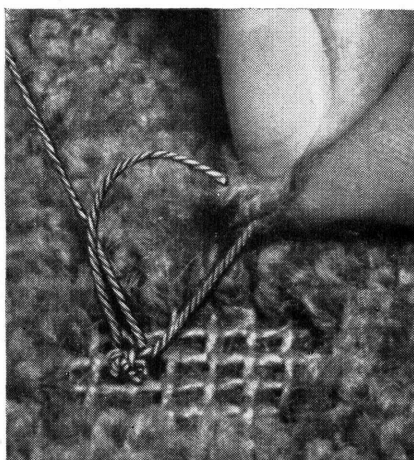
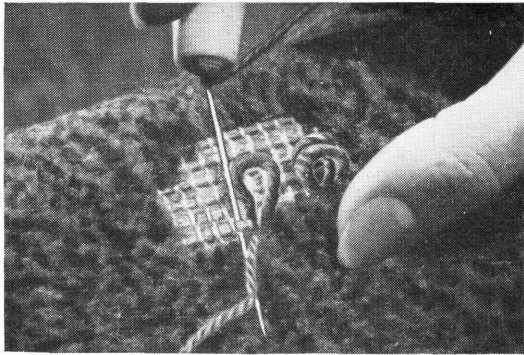


Figure 16.—Hold tufts between thumb and forefinger and pull thread tight to anchor tufts in place.

Figure 17.—Make yarn loops by slipping darning needle threaded with carpet yarn under one of the yarns in the carpet foundation.



The other way to burl is to fill in the bare spot with loops of yarns which are then clipped and sheared. For this method, use either a long darning needle or a curved upholstery needle threaded with carpet yarn or a coarse, harsh knitting yarn, as nearly like that in the carpet as you can get. Slip the needle under a crosswise yarn in the carpet foundation (fig. 17). Draw the yarn part way through, leaving a loop about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch long. After you have made several loops, close together, clip them (fig. 18). Continue—clipping loops as you make them—until the worn spot is filled. Then shear the new tufts even with the rest of the pile (fig. 19).

To flatten the new pile slightly and to take off some of the newness of the yarn, steam-press it lightly. To do this, cover the mended spot with a damp cloth, set a medium-hot iron down gently, lift it and set it down again. (*Caution:* Don't bear down heavily and don't push back and forth.) Using an iron that's too hot or pressing until yarn is completely dry makes the wool shiny, hard, and matted. When you're through steam pressing, brush against the lay of the pile with a clothes brush or whisk broom.

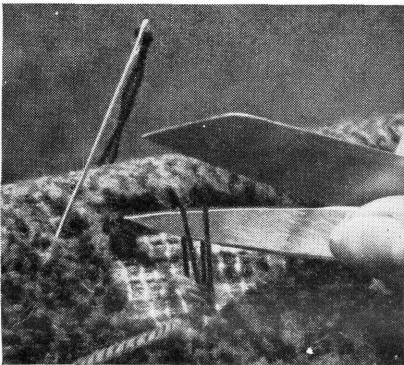


Figure 18.—Clip the loops.

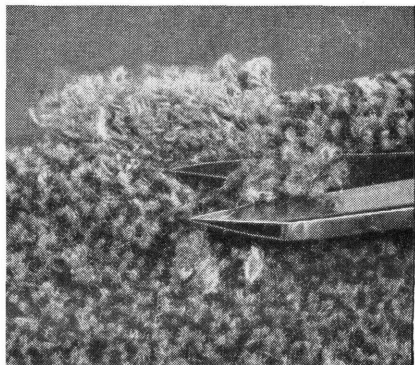


Figure 19.—Shear the clipped loops.

Mending a Tear

When a tear in a carpet or rug has not frayed too much, darn the edges together. With a large darning needle and carpet thread weave in and out from the under side (fig. 20). Be sure to keep the loose ends of yarn on the wrong side while you're darning, then clip them to about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length. Spread the ends evenly so as to prevent a bump; pin a strip of carpet binding over the darned place, on the wrong side; and sew edges of binding to the back of the carpet (fig. 21).

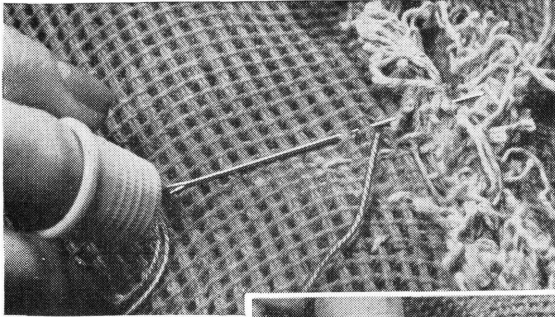
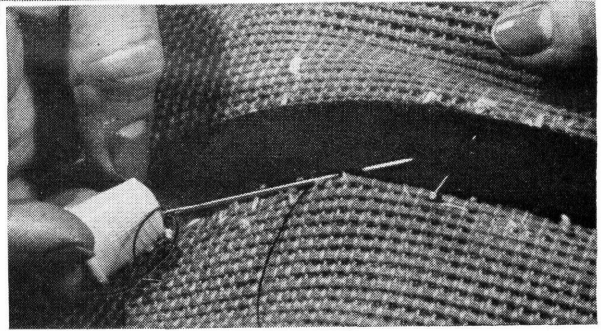


Figure 20.—Darn the frayed edges of rug together from the under side.

Figure 21.— Cover the frayed ends with carpet binding.



HOOKED RUGS

Frayed Edges

Hooked rugs usually wear first around the edges. If you mend a break as soon as you find it, a facing sewed right over the old hem to reinforce the edge may be all that is needed. But if the break is left until the foundation cloth wears through around the edge and the loops or tufts come out, it is then necessary to pick out some of the hooking and refinish the edge with a new hem or a facing. When there are small breaks in the body of the rug, a lining on the entire back is best. You can then darn the weak places in the rug to the strong material.

Hemming and facing.—Rip out the old hem (fig. 22). Examine the edge and decide how far back the tufts or loops will have to be taken out. About an inch in from where the damage is the deepest draw a line on the wrong side of the rug. Beginning at the edge, pull out all loops or tufts back to this line (fig. 23)—a strong darning needle or a stiletto is a help in loosening the old tufts. When trimming off the frayed edges leave about an inch of material from which the loops have been pulled (fig. 24).

If this material is strong, you need only rehem the new edge. Fold back the inch allowance, turn under the raw edge, pin, and hem to the rug foundation (fig. 25). On rugs with square corners, cut away extra thickness to prevent bulkiness.

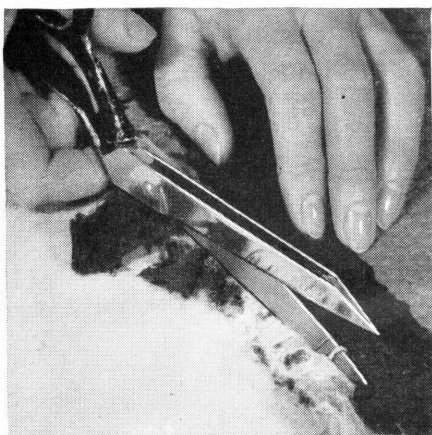


Figure 22.—Rip out the old hem of rug.

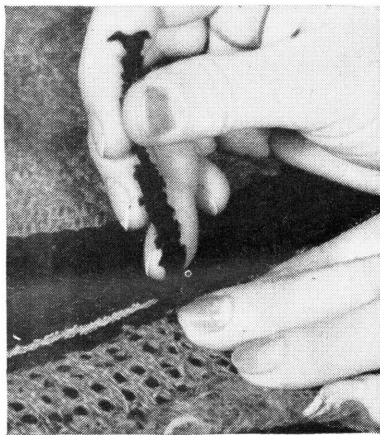


Figure 23.—Draw a line an inch from the deepest wear. Pull out old loops to this mark.

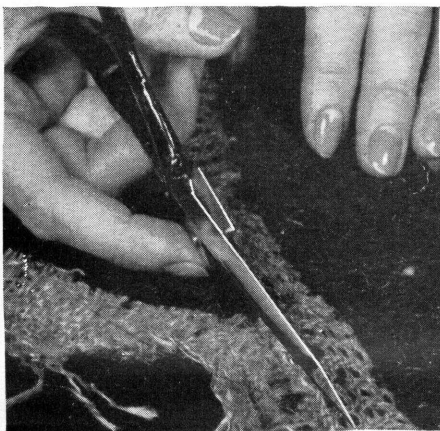


Figure 24.—Trim off worn edge of rug, leaving about an inch of burlap.

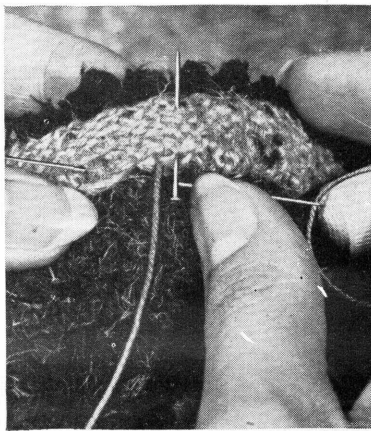


Figure 25.—Put in a new hem.

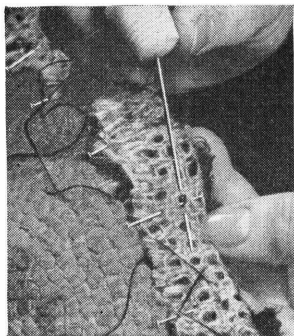


Figure 26.—Catch-stitch raw edge of burlap to rug.

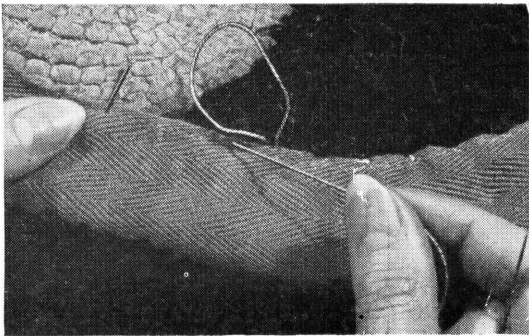


Figure 27.—Sew a facing of carpet binding over the raw edge.

If the foundation material is weak and the rug edge needs strengthening, put on a facing. First turn back the inch allowance and, with a heavy darning needle and strong thread, catch stitch the raw edge to the body of the rug (fig. 26). Then, sew a strip of carpet binding to the rug, catching only a few yarns of the background fabric and about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of the facing (fig. 27). On oval or round rugs run a gathering thread along the inner edge of the binding to ease in fullness. On square or rectangular rugs, miter the corners.

Putting on a lining.—To put on a lining prepare the edge of the rug as for a facing (fig. 26). After you have catch-stitched the raw edge of the foundation material to the rug, lay the rug on the material that you're using for the lining and draw around the outside edge with a crayon or a soft lead pencil (fig. 28). Cut off the extra material, leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch outside the penciled line. Fold under the raw edge, just inside the pencil marking. On round rugs snip out small

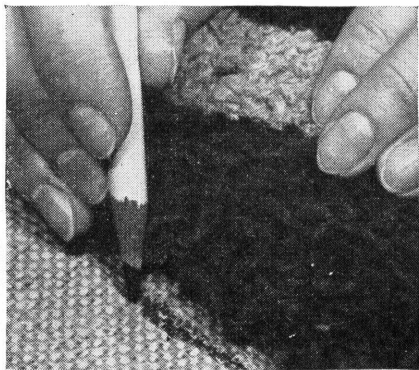


Figure 28.—Lay rug on top of lining material and draw a line around the outside edge of rug.

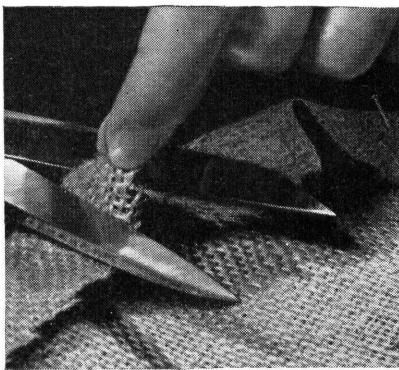
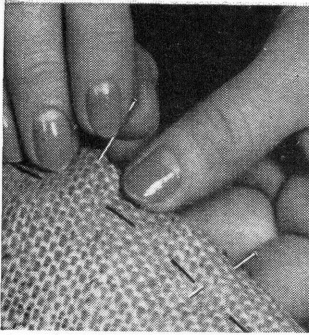


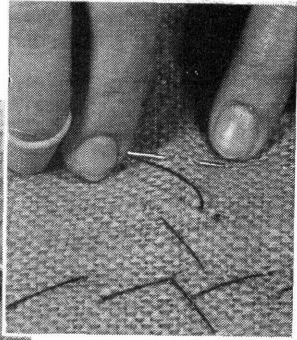
Figure 29.—Cut out wedge-shaped pieces in lining to remove bulkiness when hem is turned.



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Figure 31.—Sew lining to edge of rug.



←
Figure 30.—Fit lining to back of rug and pin in place.



↑ Figure 32.—Fasten lining to back of rug with tailor's bastings.

notches every few inches to take out bulkiness (fig. 29). Baste along the fold; then fit the lining to the wrong side of the rug and pin in place (fig. 30). Sew the lining to the rug around the edge (fig. 31). Then every 6 to 8 inches catch the lining to the back of the rug with lines of tailor's bastings (fig. 32). This keeps the lining in place and helps to strengthen the body of the rug. If there are weak spots in the foundation material, darn the lining to the back of the rug in these places to lessen strain and postpone holes.

Pulled Loops and Bare Spots

To repair loose ends.—First draw the loose end of cloth or yarn to the wrong side of rug with a coarse crochet hook or a rug hook (fig. 33). Then from the right side pull short loops through the old holes until the loose end is all reworked into the rug (fig. 34). Finish by drawing the last loop clear through to the right side and snip off the end even with the loops.

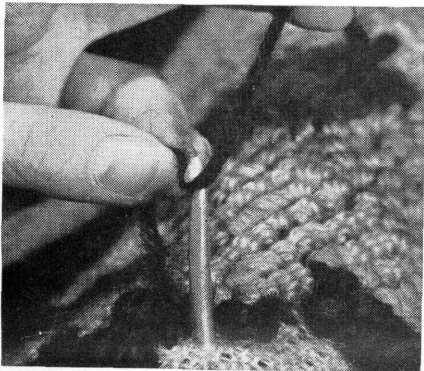


Figure 33.—Pull loose end of cloth or yarn to wrong side of rug.

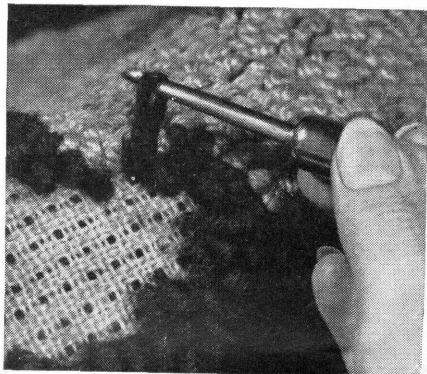


Figure 34.—Pull short loops to the right side of rug to fill in bare spot.

For bare spots.—Get yarn or strips of cloth to match rug as nearly as you can. Hold the yarn or strips on the under side of the carpet, then pull short loops through to the right side in the same way that you rework a loose end. If the rug has a clipped pile, cut the new loops as you go; then shear them even with the rest of the rug, as shown in figure 19. Steam-press (p. 11) to flatten new pile and to remove some of the newness of the yarn or cloth.

To mend holes.—If there is a hole in the body of the rug, sew a patch on the wrong side. Make the patch large enough to overlap the raw edges at least 2 or 3 inches. Then hook new yarns or strips of cloth to fill in the hole, as for bare spots. Make a few of the rows extend out into the body of the rug, raveling out some good loops if necessary. This helps to strengthen the edges around the hole and to blend the new material with the old. Finish by putting a lining on the entire back.

BRAIDED RUGS

As a rule, holes in braided rugs result from the breaking of threads that hold the braids together. To mend, use a large darning needle and a double thread. About an inch or two from one end of the rip, fasten the thread by taking a couple of small stitches, one on top of the other, in the side of one of the braids. Slip the needle, eye-end first, through a loop along the side of one braid (fig. 35). Then slip the needle through a loop of the opposite braid and continue this interlacing—catching first one braid and then the other—for an inch or so beyond the end of the ripped section. Fasten the thread securely by taking two or three short stitches along the edge of the braid. Run the thread into the body of the braid and clip off thread close to the rug.



Figure 35.—Mend rips in braided rugs by interlacing the two braids.